

**NEWS RELEASE**

# Judd Gregg

United States Senator for New Hampshire

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **SENATOR GREGG ATTENDS RIBBON-CUTTING FOR NEW MAINTENANCE AND STAGING FACILITY AT MT. WASHINGTON OBSERVATORY**

MOUNT WASHINGTON, NH -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at a new 4,700 square foot facility at the base of the Mount Washington Auto Road. The facility will provide safe and secure storage and maintenance of the Bombardier snow tractor and other maintenance vehicles as well as provide working space and sleep quarters for the Observatory staff. For six months a year, the Bombardier snow tractor is the only method of transportation to the Mt. Washington Observatory, and previous storage and maintenance facilities lacked sufficient heat and shelter. Senator Gregg, who was able to secure federal funding for the construction of the facility through his position on the Senate Appropriations Committee, piloted an Observatory vehicle into the facility for the first time and toured the new building today.

Senator Gregg stated, "With its notorious weather extremes, Mount Washington is the perfect place to conduct much needed experiments on ice, wind, air quality, and turbulence. Yet, it is not the easiest place to work, with temperatures as low as 47 degrees below zero and winds often reaching over 100 mph; warm and safe facilities are not just a nice amenity, but a necessity. That is why I am glad I was able to help secure the funding for this facility. The facility will provide storage and maintenance for the Bombardier, the only lifeline for scientists at the Observatory during the winter, as well as much needed bunk and office space for the scientists at the base of the Mountain."

Observatory Executive Director John Hammer stated, "Having safe, reliable transportation to and from the summit is absolutely vital to our winter operations. This facility will allow us to not only service the Bombardier indoors, but also to have a place to store the snow tractor and keep it out of the elements. This is something we have needed for a very long time and would not have been possible without the special collaborative partnership we have with our friends at the Mt. Washington Auto Road. Senator Gregg has been a longtime friend of the Observatory and has been instrumental in securing funding for the valuable scientific research that goes on at the summit and in our valley facilities. His efforts have given us the tools that we need to continue our work and preserve the legacy of our organization."

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